

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/506,215

Examiner

Prieto Beatriz

Applicant(s)

NAOHIRO, SHIMADA

Art Unit

2142

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/13/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 15.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 February 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 1/02
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
**BEATRIZ PRIETO**  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

*Examiner's Amendment*

1. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

2. Pursuant to M.P.E.P. §606.01, this title has respectfully been changed to read as follows:

**-- NODE CAPABLE OF SAVING A THIRD LAYER PACKET HANDLING  
OPERATION IN A SYNCHRONOUS OPTICAL NETWORK --**

*Reason for allowance*

3. The following is the Examiner's statement of Reason for Allowance. This statement is not intended to necessarily state all the reasons for allowance or all the details why claims are allowed, nor it specifically or impliedly state that all the reasons for allowance are set forth. The primary, or important reason for allowance of the claims is the inclusion of the limitation(s) in all the claims which is not found in the prior art references.

In this case, the prior art of record teaches the claimed invention substantially as claimed, however fails to teach or suggest individually or in combination; transmitting packets to a next node over the network at a first or second layer without terminating the first layer, as at least claimed on claims 1 and 15 and as described in detail on p. 13-14 of the specification. Claims are allowed because of the combination of other limitations as a whole.

4. Double patent analysis has been performed with respect to issued patents having common relationship of inventorship and/or ownership with respect to the above-allowed claims, none are found to warrant a double patenting rejection.

5. Any comments Applicants considers necessary must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and to avoid processing delays, should preferable accompany the Issue Fees. Such submission should be clearly labeled " Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance". In event of

any post-allowance papers (e.g. IDS, 312 amendment, petition, etc.), Applicant is exhorted to mail papers to the Production Control branch in Publications or faxed to post-allowance papers correspondence branch at (703) 308-5864 to expedite issuing process or call PUB's Customer Service if any questions at (703) 305-8497.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to B. Prieto whose telephone number is (571) 272-3902. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30 to 4:00 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Jack B. Harvey can be reached on (571) 272-3896. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800/4700.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system, status information for published application may be obtained from either Private or Public PAIR, for unpublished application Private PAIR only (see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov> or the Electronic Business Center at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Box Issue Fee  
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

or faxed to:

(703) 746-4000, (Issue Fee and any Publication fee/payments)

Or:

(703) 305-8283 (for checking on receipt of payment w/Publication)

B. Prieto  
Patent Examiner  
April 20, 2005

  
BEATRIZ PRIETO  
PRIMARY EXAMINER